

BOYLSTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting – 21 October 2021

Present: Bruce Filgate, Judy Bottom, David Bottom, and Nancy Filgate. **Absent:** David Cole and Judith Haynes.

Meeting called to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:55 p.m.

Bruce Filgate, Commission Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Since the Secretary was not in attendance, he presented the Minutes of the September meeting. Dave B. motioned to accept; Nancy seconded; unanimously approved

Treasurer– Year to date budget expenses and projects were discussed.

Update on Commission Projects:

Master Plan Steering Committee

- Master Plan survey is underway. Please urge everyone to complete online via the town website by end of the month.

Boylston Artifact Archives Photographing Project

- Intern attempting to locate and organize BHSM Objects Collection which has not been done since receipt of artifacts in 1971. Objects 1971-1974 (except paintings) that could be located have been photographed. Shelf 18 and 19 in the vault has been organized and labeled. The photographs and any information that can be determined will be entered into a searchable Archival Database. Because of their unique preservation requirements, military objects will be stored separately in vault and fashion will be stored in balcony cabinets. Commission suggested to consider cedar for fashion. Will suggest BHSM explore cedar preservation methods.

Elmwood Place Historic Research

- Transcription of potential deed transfers has been completed. Review of research is underway. Christie Stille of BHSM will assist the Commission with the research. Massachusetts Historic Commission has reached out to local Historical Commissions with names of staff available to assist on projects of this nature.

Unmarked Civil War graves in Pine Grove Cemetery

- About ¾ way through list of potential Civil War veterans buried in Pine Grove Cemetery. Next step is to determine if those identified as veterans have flag holders in order to figure out how many flag holders need to be ordered. Leah W. has offered to help the Historical Commission to determine how many flag holders are needed, place flag holders and clean up gravestones. Commission also will reach out to groups (Memorial Day Group, Garden Club, Cemetery Office, Veteran's Group, and Clinton Item) as time nears for Memorial Day festivities.

Boylston Cemetery Consortium

- Online publication of Boylston residents' graves: currently processed 401 outside contributions; 251 edits have been sent; 276 photographs have been added; and 3446 memorials have been published online and are being managed.

BHC, BHSM, BPL Collaborative Veterans Research Project

- The vision of this group is to add any information gathered including biographical narratives; and documentation to the BHSM Photograph Collection; and to add summary information to the individual's online memorial at the Old Burial Ground and Pine Grove Cemetery. Book publication is also in process. Completed: 42 research narratives, 6 introductory paragraphs, 3 maps, & initial formatting. To be done: 17 narratives, 6 Regiment introductory paragraphs, 8 maps, and book formatting. Cultural Council grant for partial funding has been approved.

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BHC, BHSM, BPL Collaborative Kendall, Lamson, Moore Research Project

- The vision of this group is to add any information gathered including biographical narratives; and its documentation to the BHSM Photograph Collection; and to add summary information to the individual's online memorial at the Old Burial Ground and Pine Grove Cemetery. Book publishing is also in process. Completed 52 research narratives. To be done: 7 additional names have been recently added to round out the families and provide the basis to link these individuals to the original Boylston settlers. Formatting parameters for book publishing are being selected. Trial Table of Contents, Table of Figures and Index has been formatted. Style review was completed October 22nd. Cultural Council grant for partial funding has been approved.

Reports & Collaboration in keeping with William Galvin directives:

Boylston Historical Society & Museum

- Open for researcher appointments

Boylston Historical District Commission

- Meeting scheduled for Monday, Oct 25th regarding Boylston Public Library chimney issue

Boylston Hillside Restoration Project

- No recent meetings

Historic Town Hall ongoing operation priorities/needs:

- Board of Health has mandated the wearing of mask in all public buildings (ie. Historic Town Hall)
- Ongoing power/heat/security monitoring during this Covid shutdown
 - Per EPA recommendation, monthly flushing hot water lines (as well as cold)
 - Contingency funding in place since town meeting to cover furnace IF NEEDED

New Business:

- New Project: History of the Roman Catholic Church of Boylston. The Commission will research history of the Catholic Church for an article in The Boylston Historical Series. Interview with Rev. Paul Tougas to be conducted at this time.
- Dave C is up for renewal before June 30
- In discussion with Secretary Galvin's office, it was noted that exterior changes to Historic building could prevent them being on Historic Register (Library and Flagg properties might be issue)
- New Project: At the Board of Selectmen Meeting on Monday, October 25th, Boylston will be honoring the Gold Cane Recipients:
 1. Margaret Bilek – unable to attend meeting but we will mention her name and Allison Mack will drop off the pin, cane and certificate to her in the future
 2. Aram Arvanigian – Plans to attend with a few members of his familyHistorical Commission has been invited to speak of the honor of receiving the Boston Post Cane and its history. The Commission will be present to honor the recipient of the Boston Post Cane.

NEXT MEETING: November 18, 2021

Respectfully submitted, Nancy A. Filgate, Treasurer